



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,794	03/25/2004	Lonny MacDougall	13006.00041	9727

7590 12/10/2004  
Steven Thrasher  
391 Sandhill Dr.  
Richardson, TX 75080

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THU V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3661

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/810,794

**Applicant(s)**

MACDOUGALL ET AL.

**Examiner**

Thu Nguyen

**Art Unit**

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In the specification page 8, line 1, the disclosed "second sensor 122" is not illustrated in fig.1

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 5, the claim subject matter is not accurate, since the complete system of claim 1 cannot be a mechanical indicator. It appears the indicator is just a component in the complete system of claim 1.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (US 2004/0058563) in view of Bodley-Scott et al (US 6,290,269).

As per claim 1, Kobayashi teaches a motor vehicle with child lock, the system comprises: a motor vehicle child lock (para 0035, 0038); a sensor H2, H3 (fig.2) for detecting when the child lock is engaged (para 0052). Kobayashi does not explicitly disclose an indicator coupled to the sensor. However, Kobayashi teaches connecting the microcontroller to the sensors H2, H3 for receiving child lock status (para 0052) and suggests providing an indicator 36 (fig.2) (para 0039), and Bodley-Scott suggests including an indicator (col.7, lines 56-59). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the indicator of Bodley-Scott to the system of Kobayashi in order to facilitate informing whether the child lock is activating.

As per claim 2-3, Bodley-Scott teaches including a light LED indicator (col.7, lines 56-59).

As per claim 7, Bodley-Scott teaches a logic coupling between the indicator and the child lock for controlling the indicator (col.7, lines 48-59).

As per claim 8-9, embedding a light in the door lock and implementing the indicator a a location approximate to the lock would have been both known and obvious matter of design choice.

As per claim 10-12, refer to claims 1-2, 9 above.

As per claim 13, using red LED as an indicator would have been well known. Selecting the well known red LED for reporting the status of the child lock system would have been a mere matter of design choice.

6. Claims 4, 6, 14, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (US 2004/0058563) in view of Bodley-Scott et al (US 6,290,269) and further in view of Obradovich (US 2002/0055811).

As per claim 4, 6, 14, Obradovich teaches the important of providing a speaker for informing information to the driver (para 0131, 0137). Further, Obradovich teaches recording a sound a play the sound on the speaker (para 0132). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a speaker to the system of Kobayashi in order to provide the status of the child lock in voice.

As per claim 17, providing verbal warning as audio warning would have been well known.

7. Claims 5, 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (US 2004/0058563) in view of Bodley-Scott et al (US 6,290,269) and further in view of Trammell et al (US 5,927,775).

As per claim 5, 15, Kobayashi teaches a mechanical indicator (para 0039). Further Trammell suggests including color codes as mechanical indicator (col.11, lines 41-52). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide color code to the door lock indicator of Kobayashi in order to allow the driver to quickly recognize the child lock status by checking on the color code of the indicator.

With respect to claim 16, painting a word instead of using color code as an indicator would have been known and would have been a mere matter of design choice.

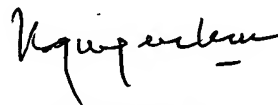
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-9130. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F (7:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (703) 305-8233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3661

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 30, 2004

  
**THU V. NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**